

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adapter for connecting a wireless phone and a land line-based phone system, comprising:
 - a wired connector that connects the adapter to the land line-based phone system;
 - a communications connector that connects the adapter to the wireless phone; and
 - a translator that translates signals between the wireless phone and the land line phone.
2. The adapter of claim 1, wherein the land line-based phone system is a land line phone, and wherein the wired connector connects the adapter to a land line telephone jack.
3. The adapter of claim 1, wherein the land line-based phone system is an expandable multi-handset phone system having a base station connected to a land line telephone jack and a plurality of phones, and wherein the wired connector connects the adapter to the base station.
4. The adapter of claim 1, wherein the communications connector comprises:
 - an audio connector that connects with an audio port on the wireless phone; and
 - a control connector that connects with a control port on the wireless phone.
5. The adapter of claim 1, wherein the communications connector comprises a wireless communication link.
6. The adapter of claim 5, wherein the wireless communication link operates according to at least one standard selected from the group consisting of Bluetooth and 802.11.
7. The adapter of claim 1, further comprising an antenna adapter that connects with an antenna port on the wireless phone.

8. The adapter of claim 1, wherein the translator translates audio and command signals between the land-line telephone jack and the adapter, and translates audio and command signals between the adapter and the wireless phone.

9. The adapter of claim 8, wherein the translator further converts between text and audio.

10. The adapter of claim 1, wherein the signals translated at least one signal type selected from the group consisting of ring function, caller identification, message notification, dialing sequence activation, standard numerical dial tones, voice dialing, phone book search, phone number storage, phone answering, voicemail access, short messaging access, and termination of communication connection.

11. A multi-handset phone system comprising:
a plurality of remote phones;
a base station that communicates with the plurality of remote phones;
a wired connector that connects the base station to a phone jack; and
an adapter disposed in the base station for connecting a wireless phone to the base station, the adapter comprising

a communications connector that connects the adapter to the wireless phone; and

a translator that translates signals between the wireless phone and at least one of the remote phones.

12. The multi-handset phone system of claim 11, wherein the communications connector comprises:

an audio connector that connects with an audio port on the wireless phone; and
a control connector that connects with a control port on the wireless phone.

13. The multi-handset phone system of claim 11, wherein the communications connector comprises a wireless communication link.

14. The multi-handset phone system of claim 13, wherein the wireless communication link operates according to at least one standard selected from the group consisting of Bluetooth and 802.11.

15. The multi-handset phone system of claim 11, wherein the translator translates audio and command signals between the phone jack and the adapter, and translates audio and command signals between the adapter and the wireless phone.

16. The multi-handset phone system of claim 15, wherein the translator further converts between text and audio.

17. The multi-handset phone system of claim 11, wherein the adapter is also connected to at least one land-line telephone, and wherein the translator also translates signals between the wireless phone and said at least one land-line telephone.

18. The multi-handset phone system of claim 11, wherein the translator translates at least one signal type selected from the group consisting of ring function, caller identification, message notification, dialing sequence activation, standard numerical dial tones, voice dialing, phone book search, phone number storage, phone answering, voicemail access, short messaging access, and termination of communication connection.

19. A method for linking a wireless phone to a land line-based phone system, comprising:

exchanging audio and command signals between the wireless phone and the land line-based phone system;

translating the audio and command signals between a phone jack in the land line-based phone system and an adapter; and

translating the audio and command signals between the adapter and the wireless phone.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the land line-based phone system is an expandable multi-handset phone system.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the expandable multi-handset phone system comprises a plurality of phones, and wherein the translating steps translate between the wireless phone and at least one of said plurality of phones.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of exchanging signals comprises exchanging the audio signals via an audio port on the wireless phone and exchanging the command signals via a control port on the wireless phone.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of exchanging signals comprises exchanging the audio and command signals via a wireless communication link.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of exchanging signals is conducted according to at least one standard selected from the group consisting of Bluetooth and 802.11.

25. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of converting between text signals and audio signals.